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Surface Topography of the Gulf Stream Region ; Derived from GEOSAT Altimetry

R R Carnes and J L Mitchell (Both at Naval Cean Research and Development Activity, Stennis Space Center, MS, 39529-5004; 601-688-5455)

Altimetry data from the GEOSAT Exact
Repeat Mission, which began in November 1986,
Ass been processed to produce consecutive
saps of surface topography for the Gulf
Stream region at one-week intervals. The
second heights along ground tracks used in
the processing were verived as the one-year
sean difference between surface height above
a reference surface, measured by altimetry,
and relative dynamic height at the sea surface
computed from a feature model based upon
positions of the front and eddies obtained
from satellite IR imagery. Surface heights
at altimeter ground track positions spanning
a complete GEOSAT 17 day repeat cycle were
serided to form each map using optimum
interpolation. A video has been prepared
thowing adjacent maps of the feature-modelled
and altimeter-derived surface topography.
Relative merits of the two approaches are
discussed.

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